COMPARATIVE POLITICS: INSTITUTIONS

Objectives
This seminar surveys the cross-national study of political institutions. It is open to students with a variety of different backgrounds. Yet, the course has been designed primarily to help students prepare for the institutional part of the Ph.D. comprehensive examination in comparative politics and for research, including doctoral dissertations, in this field. The course has also been designed to complement POLI 220A: State and Society. Though it covers a wide range of subjects related to political institutions and organizations, this seminar will give only limited coverage of subjects such as courts, bureaucracies, political development, mass behavior, interest groups, social movements, and public policy. Students preparing for the Ph.D. comprehensive exam should therefore seek other opportunities to study these topics.

The seminar is organized around ten themes:
1. Introduction: Institutions and Institutional Analysis
2. Democracy and Autocracy
3. Federalism, Consociationalism, and Power-sharing
4. Presidentialism and Executives
5. Parliamentary Democracy and Legislatures
6. Coalitions and Coalition Bargaining
7. Elections and Party Systems
8. Party Organization, Clientelism, and Development
9. Bureaucracy, Markets, and Law
10. The Social Consequences of Political Institutions

Format
The seminar will meet Tuesdays 12-2:50 on a weekly basis, except that we will meet on Friday November 13 (tentatively in SSB 353, 12-2:50) instead of on November 17. Each week will introduce a new theme in the comparative study of political institutions and provide a set of required and recommended readings. Required readings will form the basis of the seminar discussions, and all students should read them carefully and critically before class. Recommended readings are supplementary readings of theoretical or empirical importance. Students preparing for the comprehensive exam should gain familiarity at least with those that match their own areas of specialization. Many of these readings are also suitable for seminar presentations and literature review papers.

Assignments
All students must do the assigned readings, write two discussion papers (6-8 pages in length), participate actively in seminar discussions, and give regular presentations on the readings. Each week, students will be assigned specific readings to review. These presentations (approx. 15 minutes each) should summarize a set of assigned readings and relate them to other relevant literature. The presentations should review and critique the arguments and analysis done in these pieces and comment critically on their assumptions, arguments, research designs, measures, results, and implications. Finally, presentations should raise questions for discussion and future research. Students giving presentations should prepare brief outlines (electronic or hard copy) for distribution to the other seminar participants. NOTE: Be prepared to discuss all of the required reading, not just your own particular presentation assignments.

The discussion papers will be on your choice among a set of topics provided by the instructor. The papers should make an argument. The argument should be stated clearly and concisely and the rest of the paper should tie into this argument. Writing style matters! Be focused and succinct and avoid long quotations. The first of the discussion papers will be due in class on October 27 and the second one on December 4. Grades will be based on course assignments in the following way: discussion papers 40% each, presentations and class participation 20%. Extensions, incompletes, etc. will be given in accordance with UCSD policy. Except under very pressing circumstances, however, I discourage you from requesting such options.

Readings
This seminar covers a large literature, much of which you may want to have at your disposal, but I expect your
purchasing decisions to be guided by your professional judgment as well as by your budget constraint. Therefore, no books have been ordered by the UCSD Bookstore for this course, but I will be happy to provide suggestions.

1. **INTRODUCTION: INSTITUTIONS AND INSTITUTIONAL ANALYSIS** (September 29).
   **Required:**
   John M. Carey, “Parchment, Equilibria, and Institutions.” *Comparative Political Studies* 33, 6-7 (August-September 2000), 735-61.

   **Recommended:**

2. **DEMOCRACY AND AUTOCRACY** (October 6)
   **Required:**

**Recommended:**

3. **FEDERALISM, CONSOCIATIONALISM, AND POWER-SHARING** (October 13)

**Required:**

**Recommended:**

4. **PRESIDENTIALISM AND EXECUTIVES** (October 20)

**Required:**
5. PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY AND LEGISLATURES (October 27)

Required:
John D. Huber, "The Vote of Confidence in Parliamentary Democracies." American Political Science Review 90, 2 (June 1996), 269-82.
Arend Lijphart, Patterns of Democracy, ch. 11.

Recommended:
6. **COALITIONS AND COALITION BARGAINING** (November 3)

**Required:**
- David Austen-Smith and Jeffrey S. Banks, "Elections, Coalitions, and Legislative Outcomes," *American Political Science Review* 82, 2 (June 1988), 405-422.

**Recommended:**


7. **ELECTIONS AND PARTY SYSTEMS** (November 10).

**Required:**


Arend Lijphart, *Patterns of Democracy*, chs. 5 and 8.


**Recommended:**


Matthew Singer, “Was Duverger Correct? Single-Member District Election Outcomes in Fifty-three Countries.”
Political Science 220B - Strøm

8. **PARTY ORGANIZATION, CLIENTELISM, AND DEVELOPMENT** (November 13)

**Required:**


**Recommended:**

9. **BUREAUCRACY, MARKETS, AND LAW** (November 24)

**Required:**

**Recommended:**

10. **THE SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS** (December 1)

**Required:**

**Recommended:**
- Simeon Djankov, Edward Glaeser, Rafael La Porta, Florencio Lopez-de-Silanes, and Andrei Shleifer, “The new


